CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

1-31. (Canceled).

32. (Currently Amended) ~~A device for supporting~~ An assemblage, comprising:

a boneless cut of seafood having at least two cut surfaces each having a cut surface area, wherein said cut surfaces intersect to form a two-sided cut corner having a cut corner length~~, comprising:~~;

at least two intersecting substantially flat substantially rigid supports forming a two-sided brace defining a fitted joint having an intersection;

wherein ~~when~~ said cut corner of said boneless cut of seafood is inserted in and protected by said fitted joint, such that a portion of each of said cut surfaces of said boneless cut of seafood rests against and is supported by said rigid supports.

33. (Currently Amended) ~~A device~~ An assemblage according to claim 32, further comprising:

curving material substantially conforming to any convexity along said cut corner length placed within a portion of said intersection of said fitted joint;

~~whereby when~~ wherein said cut corner of said boneless cut of seafood is inserted in said fitted joint, such that said convexity conforms to and is supported by said curving material.

34. (Currently Amended) ~~A device for supporting~~ An assemblage, comprising:

a boneless cut of seafood product having a substantially V-shaped cross-section defined by at least two flat cut surfaces each having a cut surface area, wherein said cut surfaces intersect to form a two-sided cut corner having a corner angle and a cut corner length, said boneless cut of seafood having a contoured side intermediate between said cut surfaces and opposite said corner angle~~, comprising:~~;

at least two substantially flat substantially rigid supports intersecting in a V shape to form a two-sided brace defining a fitted joint having an intersection with a support angle;

wherein said support angle is substantially equal to said corner angle;

~~whereby when~~ wherein said two-sided cut corner of said boneless cut of seafood is inserted into and ~~is supported~~ protected by said intersection of said fitted joint, such that a portion of each of said cut surfaces of said boneless cut of seafood conforms to and is supported by said supports.

35. (Currently Amended) ~~A device~~ An assemblage according to claim 34, further comprising:

curving material substantially conforming to any convexity along said cut corner length placed within a portion of said intersection of said fitted joint;

~~whereby when~~ wherein said two-sided cut corner of said boneless cut of seafood is inserted into said fitted joint, such that said convexity conforms to and is supported by said curving material.

36. (Currently Amended) ~~A device for supporting~~ An assemblage, comprising:

a boneless cut of seafood having a plurality of cut surfaces each having a cut surface area, wherein the intersections between three of said cut surfaces form three-sided cut corner peaks and the intersections between two of said cut surfaces in said three -sided cut corner peaks form ~~a~~ two-sided cut ~~corner,~~ corners, wherein each of said two-sided cut ~~corner~~ corners has a corner angle and a cut corner length, and said boneless cut of seafood has a contoured surface ~~opposite said corner angle, comprising:~~ intermediate between said cut surfaces, the intersection between said cut surfaces and said contoured surface forming contour corners;

a plurality of intersecting substantially flat substantially rigid supports;

wherein three of said supports substantially perpendicularly intersect each other to form a three-sided brace, wherein said three-sided brace defines a three-sided fitted joint;

wherein two of said supports in said three-sided brace form a two-sided brace, wherein said two-sided brace defines a two-sided fitted joint having an intersection with a support angle within said three-sided brace;

wherein said support angle is substantially equal to said corner angle;

wherein ~~when~~ said three-sided cut corner peak is inserted ~~in~~ into said three-sided fitted joint, such that said three intersecting cut surfaces forming said three-sided cut corner peak rest against said three-sided brace;

wherein ~~when~~ said two-sided cut corner is inserted into said two-sided fitted joint, such that portions of said two intersecting cut surfaces forming said two-sided cut corner rest against said two-sided brace; and

wherein each of said cut surfaces conforms to and is supported by one of said rigid supports;

wherein said rigid supports do not contact said contoured surface except along a contour corner;

such that the sharpness of said three-sided cut corner peaks and said two-sided cut corners in said joints is maintained and restored to preserve the valuable fresh-cut appearance of said boneless cut of seafood; and

such that varying sizes and shapes of said boneless cut of seafood can be accommodated.

37. (Currently Amended) ~~A device~~ An assemblage according to claim 36, further comprising:

curving material substantially conforming to any convexity along said cut corner length placed within a portion of said intersection of said two-sided fitted joint; and

~~whereby when~~ wherein said two-sided cut corner of said boneless cut of seafood is inserted into said fitted joint, such that said convexity conforms to and is supported by said curving material.

38. (Currently Amended) ~~A device for supporting~~ An assemblage, comprising:

a boneless cut of seafood having a plurality of cut surfaces, each having a cut surface area, and at least one contoured surface, wherein said cut surfaces intersect with each other to form two-sided cut corners, each cut corner having a corner angle and a cut corner length, wherein said cut surfaces and said contoured surface intersect to form contour corners; ~~comprising:~~;

a plurality of intersecting substantially flat substantially rigid supports;

wherein said supports intersect to form a plurality of two-sided braces, each of said braces defining a fitted joint having an intersection with a support angle;

wherein each of said support angles is substantially equal to a corresponding one of said corner angles;

wherein ~~when each of said~~ a cut ~~corners~~ corner is inserted into ~~and conforms to~~ a corresponding ~~one of said~~ fitted ~~joints~~, joint, such that a portion of ~~each of said~~ a cut ~~surfaces~~ surface of said boneless cut of seafood rests against and is supported by a corresponding one of said supports, and;

~~wherein~~ a portion of ~~each of said~~ a contour ~~corners~~ corner rests against and is supported by one of said supports; and

wherein said supports do not contact said contoured surface except along a contour corner;

such that the sharpness of said cut corners and contour corners is maintained and restored to preserve the valuable fresh-cut appearance of said boneless cut of seafood; and

such that varying sizes and shapes of said boneless cut of seafood can be accommodated.

39. (Currently Amended) ~~A device~~ An assemblage according to claim 38, further comprising:

curving material substantially conforming to any convexity along a portion of one of said cut corner lengths placed within a portion of ~~a convexity one of~~ said intersection of a convexity one of said fitted joints;

~~whereby when~~ wherein a two-sided cut corner of said boneless cut of seafood having a convexity along a portion of one of said corner lengths is inserted into ~~a~~ said convexity one of said fitted joints, such that said convexity along a portion of one of said corner lengths conforms to and is supported by said curving material within said convexity one of said fitted joints.

40. (Currently Amended) ~~A device for supporting~~ An assemblage, comprising:

a boneless cut of seafood having a horizontal cut side having a horizontal cut surface area, a vertical cut side having a vertical cut surface area, and a contoured side between said horizontal cut side and said vertical cut side, wherein said horizontal cut side and said vertical cut side intersect to form a cut corner having a cut corner length, said contoured side and said horizontal cut side intersect to form a horizontal contour corner, and said contoured side and said vertical cut side intersect to form a vertical contour corner~~, comprising:~~.

a horizontal rigid support;

a vertical rigid support;

wherein said horizontal rigid support and said vertical rigid support intersect to form a two-sided brace defining a fitted joint having an intersection;

wherein ~~when~~ said cut corner is inserted ~~in~~ into said fitted joint, such that portions of said horizontal cut side and said horizontal contour corner rest against and are supported by said horizontal rigid support and portions of said vertical cut side and said vertical contour corner rest against and are supported by said vertical rigid support; ~~and~~

wherein said rigid supports do not contact said contoured ~~surface.~~ side except along a contour corner;

such that the sharpness of said corners is maintained and restored to preserve the valuable fresh-cut appearance of said boneless cut of seafood; and

such that varying sizes and shapes of said boneless cut of seafood can be accommodated.

41. (Currently Amended) ~~A device~~ An assemblage according to claim 40, further comprising:

curving material substantially conforming to any convexity along said cut corner length placed within a portion of said intersection;

~~whereby when~~ wherein said cut corner of said boneless cut of seafood is inserted in said fitted joint ~~and when,~~ such that said horizontal cut side and said horizontal contour corner rest against and are supported by said horizontal rigid support ~~and when,~~ said vertical cut side and said vertical contour corner rest against and are supported by said vertical rigid support, and said convexity of said cut corner conforms to and is supported by said curving material within said intersection.

42. (Currently Amended) ~~A device for supporting~~ An assemblage, comprising:

a boneless cut of seafood having at least two cut surfaces each having a cut surface area, wherein said cut surfaces intersect to form a two-sided cut corner having a cut corner length, ~~comprising:~~;

at least one substantially rigid support formed in a V shape to form a two-sided brace defining a sharp intersection substantially conforming to a portion of said cut corner length;

wherein ~~when~~ said cut corner of said boneless cut of seafood is inserted in said brace, such that a portion of each of said cut surfaces of said boneless cut of seafood rests against and is supported by one of said rigid supports and said cut corner conforms to and is supported by said intersection.

43. (Currently Amended) ~~A device for supporting~~ An assemblage, comprising:

a boneless cut of seafood having at least two cut surfaces having a cut surface area, wherein said cut surfaces intersect to form a two-sided cut corner having a cut corner length, ~~comprising:~~;

at least one substantially rigid support formed in a V shape to form a two-sided brace defining a fitted joint having a curved intersection substantially conforming to any convexity along said cut corner length;

wherein ~~when~~ said cut corner of said boneless cut of seafood is inserted in said fitted joint, such that a portion of each of said cut surfaces of said boneless cut of seafood rests against and is supported by said rigid supports and said convexity of said cut corner conforms to and is supported by said curving intersection.

44. (Currently Amended) ~~A device~~ An assemblage according to any one of claims 32 to 43, further comprising:

a flexible membrane enclosing said supports and said boneless cut of seafood;

~~whereby~~ such that said supports and said boneless cut of seafood can be vacuum sealed within said flexible membrane and said flexible membrane holds said boneless cut of seafood against said supports.

45. (Currently Amended) ~~A device~~ An assemblage according to any one of claims 32 to 43, wherein at least 60% of a cut surface area is supported by a support.

46. (Currently Amended) ~~A device~~ An assemblage according to any one of claims 32 to 43, wherein at least 60% of a cut corner length is supported by a joint.

47-48. (Canceled).

49. (New) A process to support boneless cuts of seafood having at least two cut surfaces each having a cut surface area, wherein said cut surfaces intersect to form a two-sided cut corner having a convex cut corner length, during the processing, handling, transportation and distribution of said boneless cuts of seafood, comprising the steps of:

providing a brace having a fitted joint defined by two intersecting substantially flat substantially rigid supports forming an intersection; and

inserting said cut corner of said boneless cut of seafood into said intersection, such that said cut corner of said boneless cut of seafood is inserted in and protected by said fitted joint, such that a portion of each of said cut surfaces of said boneless cut of seafood rests against and is supported by said rigid supports.

50. (New) A process according to claim 49, further comprising:

enclosing said supports and said boneless cut of seafood in a flexible membrane; and vacuum sealing said supports and said boneless cut of seafood within said flexible membrane.